

1475 c 2 (19)

ROBIN'S RELIGION

OR THE,

Canary-Birds BELIEF,

AND THE

CORMORANT'S COMANDMENTS:

IN A

DIALOGUE

Between the

KING FISHER and KITE.

Containing the whole Government and
Religion of the FEATHER'D RACE.

Quis nunc diligitur nisi conscius — Juv. Sat. III.

LONDON,

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ROBIN'S RELIGION, &c.

Q. WHAT is your Name?
A. Woodcock.

Q. Who gave you that Name?

A. My generous Vouchers *Canary-Bird*,
Pinch-gut, *Cormorant* Pick-pocket, and their
friend *Robin* Trunk all.

Q. What Religion are you of?

A. By the virtue of poverty, I am an In-
fidel.

Q. Pray what makes you an Infidel?

A. Because I never expect to see Bread cheap,
Money circulate, nor Knaves hang'd.

Q. Why so, are not Thieves hanged every
Sessions?

A. I said Knaves.

Q. What is the difference?

A. Very considerable; a Thief is his own
master, and ventures his life for his living, no
one trusts him, so he deceives no body; but
a Knave is only another word for Servant,
who being in Trust; Trust gives him power
to rob by Authority; and that same power
protects him to rob his Master, and all his
Fellow-servants.

Q. What Element breeds such Vermin?

A. *Eutopia* the middle Region of the Air,
from whence I came, Iwarms with them.

Q. What sort of Government have you
there?



A. Monarch-Aristocratical.

Q. That is an hard Name, -- is your Government so too?

A. Our Eagle makes one of the best of *Caliphs*, and all the feathered Race love him as well --- But what's the duce of all, he has got, about him, three of the sad Dogs. viz. *Trunk-all* the *Robin*, *Sable* the *Canary-bird*, and *Scarlet* the *Cormorant*.

Q. What are their Offices in the State?

A. The *Robin* contrives how to fleece all, *Sable* the *Canary-bird* coaxes all, and *Scarlet* the *Cormorant* bullies all.

Q. Why do't the other Birds petition the *Eagle*, detect his frauds and cheats, and out with him?

A. It is impossible --- the old *Robin* is so cunning that he lets no body have the *Caliph's* Ear but himself; the *Canary-bird* and *Cormorant* are his own creatures, what he says they must swear to it. For you must know that he carries the Purse, and can make or marr whom he thinks proper.

Q. How came he into such extraordinary favour, that what he says should be a Law?

A. Alas-a-day! very craftily --- in a --- former Reign, when a good old *Faulcon* tway'd the Sceptre, he got the scheme of affairs under his thumb, and has held it ever since.

Q. Is he not piqued at now and then, or does he manage so as to get the good will of all?

A.

To get the good will of all, would be impossible, but he is often picqued at; however, he has revitted himself so close, that there is no such thing as removing him: No one can hurt him but such as depend upon him, and they must be hush for the sake of their Posts. *Scarlet the Cormorant* and his Crew are at his devotion, by reason he commands the Key of their Cupboard, and upon the least disgust can proclaim an endless Lent in their Families, and ruin their posterity for ever.

Q. But does *Sable the Canary bird* go the same length?

A. The *Canary-bird* does very near the matter, if not quite; but, I'll assure you one thing, that is, that it is not so much out of any real love he or any of his tribe has for *Robin*, as for fear of the mischief he is able to do them; by representing them disaffected to the Government, malecontents, sowers of sedition, and the Lord knows what: Then to counterplot the SENIOR *Canary bird*, he preserves a great many little chattering Bastard *Canary-birds*, who are mercenary enough to be brib'd into any thing. These must justify his conduct, and oppose all just Remonstrances, even to the teeth of the *Comptroller*, if need were: The condition is; no *Truckle*, no *Trencher*; and stooping is rising.

Q. Has *Sable the Canary-bird* no jurisdiction over his own birds?

A.

A. In days of yore they kept a Club, and made abundance of good wholesome Rules; but *Robin* fancy'd, they finelt his water; for *Chatter* an old surly *Canary-bird* began to open his mouth at him, for putting in an *Hedge-Sparrow* among them, so *Robin* suborn'd Knights o'th' Profession to swear that old *Surly's* Ears were Horns, and soon sent him a packing?

Q. What said the Callow-unfledged *Canary-birds* to that?

A. All true bred Birds, especially those of the tribe of the *Sables* bein' moved his case, and retired to their Groves, and were mute for fear of being served the same sauce. The Unfledg'd made *Robin* a courtesy, and proffered their service to bear testimony against any of the *Sables* he had a mind to spring, and eccho till death the flight.

Q. But did *Scarlet* join in the cry?

A. Laugh'd in his sleeve——then interest can counter: For you must know that *Scarlet* built his nest on the *Sable's* ruin; whilst upright simplicity lived in *Eutopia* we had no need of any more than the Caliph and the *Canary-bird*.

Q. Well so much for Government, pray tell me, what sort of Beings, Animals or Things are the Inhabitants of your *Eutopia*?

A. In our language we call them *Homanthropys*, in form, they resemble one of you on Earth here, eat, drink, and wear cloaths; but

but then have no Religion but political; the *Robin* has a platform of something that suits his turn, and who will not be of his faith is sent to the *Prachans*.

Q. Pray what is that?

A. To starve, have a bad name, and give halt he is worth to the *Robin* for his protection.

Q. You said a while ago that your *Name* is *Woodcock*; is that a common name to all in *Eutopia*?

A. Why of late days we are most of us so by nature, though we have different names and other temperaments. Did not——

Q. Did not what, out with it.

A. In the first place we (as I told you before) love the Caliph, and had rather suffer a great deal than hurt any Bird that he values; Secondly, should we one and all wait upon the Caliph, and beg of him to deliver up the *Robin* to our Crows, it might give him a wrong suspicion of our Loyalty towards his person and Government; and so by *Robin's* instigation let loose the *Scarlet* upon us, to impoverish himself and us too. And Thirdly, the Vultures, Ravens, Rooks and Crows might step in the mean time among us and make havock, to vindicate their old benefactor *Robin*: Wherefore, we are resolved to bear with patience till the great and good Caliph finds *Robin* out himself, and then we can with duty and honour join him in the revenge. Q.

Q. So you are resolv'd to give him rope to hang himself?

A. By all means--- For it is a maxim in our Horrizon, the nearer the court the nearer the halter-- and *Robin* has a jobb upon his hands now which he purposes great matters by, and if he miscarries in it, all the Birds in *Eutopia* will have a snatch at him for putting the Caliph in the head on't, and rousing sleepy Bats, whose teeth and claws are uselets, and are only kept in barns to fright the mice; but the *Robin* once turn'd abroad, they'll flirt their wings and chirp as they us'd to do, and be glad even to kiss our tails to be friends as in former days.

Q. Did you not at the beginning of this discourse promise me the *Canary-Birds Creed*, pray rehearse it?

A. I believe it is much better to be a shifting *Proteus* than an unchangeable *Apollo*.

I believe that a Weather-cock, that turns with the wind is liable to very few storms.

I believe it is better to be a rich Parrot than a poor Jack-daw.

I believe one grain in my beak to be worth twenty in the fields.

I believe the way to thrive is to preach Charity to others, but practise little my self.

I believe that none but fools die martyrs to Conscience.

I believe 'tis good to enrich my self though I impoverish others.

There are five other Articles which I shall omit for-----

Q. For what? pray rehearse them.

A. For quiet's sake I chuse to omit them.

Q. Well since you won't tell them, pray will you repeat the Comandments made use of in your *Eniopia*.

A. I shall repeat one, under which almost all the rest are compriz'd, viz.

Get money my Son, get money, it is no matter by what means, whether you get it honestly or not, so that you do but enrich your family; it does not signify whether you defraud one particular neighbour, or coufin a whole Kingdom.

Q. Are these your doctrines in general.

A. They are, and such that suit well the kidney of the ROBIN, the *Canary-Bird*, and the *Cormorant*.

F I N I S.

